AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1   1.   (Currently Amended) A computing system including an email system connected to an email network using the SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) protocol, the computing system comprising: ~~(a)~~ an ~~additional~~ <u>extended alternate recipient</u> parameter in the SMTP protocol ~~to specify~~ <u>within a self-rerouting email</u> <u>message that specifies</u> alternate recipients ~~of an email message~~ to be used in case the email system cannot deliver the <u>self-rerouting</u> email message to an original recipient, and ~~to deliver the message~~ <u>to automatically attempt to forward</u> <u>the self-rerouting email message to the alternate recipients</u> in case the <u>self-</u> <u>rerouting</u> email message cannot be delivered to the original recipient.

1   2.   (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1 wherein the extended <u>alternate</u> <u>recipient</u> parameter is an ARCPT (Alternate Recipient) parameter in said SMTP protocol.

1   3.   (Cancelled) ~~A system as in claim wherein the ARCPT parameter is an extension~~ ~~to the SMTP protocol, the ARCPT parameter to automatically forward the~~ ~~message to the alternate recipients in case of inability to deliver to original~~ ~~recipients.~~

1   4.   (Currently Amended) A system as in claim ~~2 wherein the ARCPT~~ 1 wherein the

2   extended alternative recipient parameter within the self-rerouting email

3   message can also be used by the recipient or the system administrator of the

4   recipient server to forward ~~emails~~ email messages to another address and

5   the alternate recipient on the recipient server shall hold priority over the one

6   already in the email specified by the sender.

1   5.   (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1 further comprising~~:~~

2   ~~(a)~~ a second extended alternate keyword to an SMTP protocol NOTIFY

3   parameter for the sender to specify notification by said email system of

4   successful delivery to the alternate recipients on failure to deliver to the

5   original recipient, and to notify the sender based on the delivery of the

6   self-rerouting email message to the alternate recipients.

1   6.   (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 5 wherein the second extended

2   alternate keyword is ~~an~~ ALTERNATE ~~keyword, and~~ in the SMTP ~~parameter is~~

3   ~~the~~ NOTIFY parameter.

1   7.   (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 5 wherein the second extended

2   alternate keyword is an extension of the SMTP ~~server~~ protocol NOTIFY

3   parameter to include sending ~~an~~ a second email message to the sender in case of

4   non-delivery of the self-rerouting email message to the alternate recipients.

1   8.   (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 5 wherein ~~said extended SMTP~~

2   ~~protocol includes:~~

3   ~~(a)   ARCPT parameter for specifying alternate recipients, and~~

4   ~~(b)   ALTERNATE keyword in the NOTIFY parameter,~~ the second extended

5   alternate keyword is an extension of the SMTP protocol NOTIFY

6   parameter to specify notification in case of delivery to alternate

7   recipients.

1   9.   (Currently Amended) In a computing system including an email system

2   connected to an email network using the SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol)

3   protocol, a method for specifying alternate email recipients comprising:

4   ~~(a)~~   providing an ~~additional~~ extended alternate recipient parameter in the

5   SMTP protocol that makes an email message a self-rerouting email

6   message that specifies alternate recipients ~~by the sender of an email~~

7   ~~message~~ to be used in case the ~~mail~~ email system cannot deliver the self-

8   rerouting email message to the original recipient and ~~delivering~~

9   attempting to deliver the self re-routing email message to the specified

10   alternate recipients ~~by the email system~~ in case ~~it~~ the email system is

11   unable to deliver to the original recipient.

1   10.   (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 9 wherein the ~~additional~~ extended

.2   alternate recipient parameter in the SMTP protocol ~~specifying the alternate~~

3   ~~recipient~~ within the self-rerouting email message is an ARCPT (Alternate

4   Recipient) parameter.

1   11.   (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 9 wherein the step of ~~delivering the~~

2   attempting to deliver the self-rerouting email message further comprises

3   automatic forwarding the self-rerouting email message to the alternate

4   recipients in case of inability to deliver to the original recipient.

1   12.   (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 10, wherein the step of providing an

2   ~~additional~~ extended alternative recipient parameter in the SMTP protocol within

3   the self-rerouting email message further comprises the alternate recipient on

4   the recipient server having priority over ~~the~~ the original recipient specified by

5   the sender.

1   13.   (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 9 further comprising:

2   (a)   specifying notification by said email system of the successful delivery to

3   the alternate recipients on failure to deliver to the original recipient, ~~and~~

4   or

5   (b)   notifying the sender by the email system of the non-delivery of the

6   message to the alternate recipients.

1 14. (Previously Amended) A method as in claim 13 wherein the step of providing

2   notification is specifying an ALTERNATE extension to the NOTIFY parameter.

1 15. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 13 wherein the step of notifying the

2   sender by the email system of the non-delivery of the <u>self-rerouting</u> message to

3   the alternate recipients further comprises sending an <u>second</u> email message to

4   the sender in case of non-delivery of the <u>self-rerouting</u> message to the

5   alternate recipients.

1 16. (Cancelled) ~~A method as in claim 13 further comprising:~~

2   ~~(a) extending the SMTP protocol with an ARCPT keyword for specifying~~

3   ~~alternate recipients;~~

4   ~~(b) extending the SMTP protocol with an ALTERNATE keyword in the~~

5   ~~NOTIFY parameter, for specifying notification in case of delivery to~~

6   ~~alternate recipients.~~

1 17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising computer

2   readable program code stored on computer readable storage medium embodied

3   therein for causing a computer to send email to alternate email recipients in case

4   of inability to deliver to an original recipient comprising<u>:</u>

5   ~~(a)~~ computer readable program code configured for extending the SMTP

6   protocol <u>within an email message</u> to enable the sender to specify

7   alternate recipients of ~~an~~ <u>the</u> email message to be used in case the mail

8   system cannot deliver the <u>email</u> message to the original recipient <u>thereby</u>

9   <u>making the email message a self-rerouting email message</u>, and to cause

10   the ~~said~~ mail system to <u>attempt to</u> deliver the <u>self-rerouting</u>

11   email message to the specified alternate recipients in case it is unable to

12   deliver to the original recipient.

1   18.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 17 wherein said

2   computer readable program code configured for extending the SMTP protocol

3   <u>within the self-rerouting email message</u> ~~is specifying the alternate recipient~~ is

4   an ARCPT (Alternate Recipient) parameter in said SMTP protocol.

1   19.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 17 wherein said

2   computer readable program code configured for extending the SMTP protocol

3   thereby causing the mail system to <u>attempt to</u> deliver the <u>self-rerouting</u> email

4   message to the specified alternate recipients further comprises automatic

5   forwarding the <u>self-rerouting</u> email message to the alternate recipients in case

6   of not delivering to original recipients.

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1 20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 18 wherein said

2   computer readable program code configured for extending the SMTP protocol by

3   the addition of the ARCPT parameter enables the recipient or system

4   administrator of a server of the recipient to forward email messages to another

5   address with the alternate recipient on the server of the recipient holding

6   priority over the recipient in the <u>self-rerouting</u> email specified by the sender.

1 21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 17 further

2   comprising:

3   ~~(a)~~ computer readable program code configured to extend the SMTP protocol

4   to enable the sender to specify notification by said mail system of a

5   successful delivery to the alternate recipients on failure to deliver to the

6   original recipient, and to cause said mail system to notify the sender

7   based on the non-delivery of the <u>self-rerouting</u> email message to the

8   alternate recipients.

1 22. (Previously Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 21

2   wherein said computer readable program code configured for specifying the

3   notification is by addition of ALTERNATE keyword to the NOTIFY parameter.

1   23.   (Cancelled) ~~A computer program product as claimed in claim 21 wherein said~~

2   ~~computer readable program code is an extension of the SMTP server to send an~~

3   ~~email message to the sender in case of non-delivery of the message to the~~

4   ~~alternate recipients.~~

1   24.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim ~~21~~ 18

2   further comprising computer readable program code that extends the SMTP

3   protocol with ~~:~~—

4   ——— ~~(a)   ARCPT keyword for specifying alternate recipients;~~

5   ——— ~~(b)~~——— an ALTERNATE keyword in the NOTIFY parameter, for specifying

6   notification in case of delivery to alternate recipients.